

**Robert Dinwiddie to George Washington, June 6, 1757,
Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers.
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FROM GOVERNOR DINWIDDIE.

WILLIAMSBURG June 6th. 1757

SIR

I recd. Yr. Letter of the 30th. Ult. per Ct. Gist I am sorry the Indians are so refractory, which I conceive is entirely owing to Capt. Mercer's promising them Presents, which he had no Power or Authority to do —

Those Indians had a sufficient Supply at Bedford Court House agreeable to the Treaty; but their Avarice is such that if they had all their Expectations, they wou'd demand more, & it is a very great Error to make them any Promises whatever, further than to recommend their Demands without any positive Promise.

As Mr. Atkin is to transact all Indian Affairs, he in course may appoint a person to act in his Absence—Captain Gist is (I believe) a good Man, but is unhappy that he cannot speak their Language, however You may recommend him to Mr. Atkin & indeed I think when he met him on the Road, he shd. have return'd with him—I think whoever Mr. Atkin appoints is to be paid from Home.

The Assembly has pass'd a Bill for augmtg our Forces.—Money for paying Arrears, & all Charges on the Forces now in pay, & those to be rais'd; as it will lie with me to confirm

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it, You may suppose it to be a Law, & if You will send down the Pay Master, he will have Money to pay them to the 1st. of this Month.

Capt. Bullin's Scheme must be laid before Mr. Atkin & I agree with You that he shou'd be particularly distinguish'd.¹—I observe Colo. Stanwix has recd. from You 100 bls Gun Powder, 3 Tons Lead, 100 six Pound Shott & 1200 Flints—Let me know the Number of Spare Arms & Amun now at Fort Loudoun, I fear we shall not have Arms sufficient for the Men propos'd to be rais'd, & when You write to Colo. Stanwix advise with him if he can supply us.

As the Bill pass'd the council but two Days agoe I cannot send You a Copy, but I have order'd it to be printed

I remain Sir Your most hble Servant ROBT. DINWIDDIE P. S. I hope the Men now with You are employ'd in finishing the Fort—.

1 A scheme for bringing in the Creek and Cherokee Indians, which Washington pronounced “worthy of Bullen,” a Catawba warrior, of whom he spoke in the most complimentary manner.